



## Regional Service Council Minutes Region 8

**Meeting Date:** February 23, 2007

**Meeting Location:** Vigo County DCS  
30 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Terre Haute, IN 47803

**Council Members Present:** Mike Baker, Vigo County DCS Supervisor; David Uberto, Regional Manager, Region 8; Katie Edington, Parke/Vermillion County Director; Diana Thomson, Clay County FCM; Pamela Connelly, Clay/Sullivan County Director; Nicki Fuhrmeister, CASA, Vigo County

**Council Members Absent:** James/Linda Scarbrough, Vigo County Foster Parent; Hon. P. J. Pierson, Sullivan; Hon. Bruce Stengel, Vermillion; Hon. Sam Swaim, Parke; Glenn Cardwell, Vigo County Director

**Others in Attendance:** Nyala Bolen, Friends of Family; Penny Pitcock, Dodson & Shively; Peggy Weber, ISU; Heidi Wheeler, Clay/Vigo County Supervisor; Norma Stewart, White's Family Services; Robyn Lugar, ISU.

Meeting Minutes
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**Meeting Called to Order at:** 9:00 A.M.

David Uberto welcomed attendees and led the introductions. Minutes were reviewed and no additions or corrections were noted.

Agenda items were discussed as follows.

1. Child Protection Plans

Mr. Uberto reported that all plans had been submitted to Central Office for review. Mike is to follow up on obtaining the prosecutor's signature on the agreement with the Prosecutor's Office.

2. Community Partners Update

Nyala stated that she has received a signed contract. She has distributed brochures to Vigo County schools. She plans to contact schools in the remaining counties in the next

two weeks. It was agreed that generally there is a good rapport between the various school corporations and DCS. Currently, she is serving 20 families.

Nyala is in negotiations with the Housing Authority about sharing space with them.

Nyala is focusing on community awareness. She said that the Care Council in conjunction with the City of Terre Haute is making 2008 the Year of the Child. Each month will focus on a different aspect and it is expected that the city will open a family center in 2008 in coordination with this effort.

Governance is scheduled to meet in March. Katie is taking Glenn's place on the Governance Committee.

Nyala reminded the Council of the upcoming training on *40 Developmental Assets Training* taking place on February 27, 2007 at Ivy Tech.

### 3. IV-B Update

Penny reviewed the monthly reports. She read a portion of a forthcoming bulletin from Mary Lou Easter about the billing of Chaffee dollars for Independent Living. To obtain maximum usage of the funds, they will be billed in the county where they reside.

There is a billing change for Intensive Family Preservation (Homebuilders). The billing units have been changed to daily units, not phases. Katie asked if the rate decreases as the service gets less intensive. Penny will research.

### 4. Regional Fatality Teams

Mr. Uberto stated that there is a move toward establishing a Regional Fatality Team. It would be made up of selected FCMs that would receive specialized training. He asks that Directors supply him with a list of possible candidates for this team. One obstacle is how the void will be filled in small counties when a FCM is pulled to conduct the fatality investigation. Pam stated that there is a training available by Dr. Laskey called SUDI (Sudden and Unexpected Death Investigations). More information will be forthcoming when the obstacles are addressed.

### 5. CWS State Fund: SOAR Proposal

Mr. Uberto stated that the proposal was not approved. He feels there is a definite need for this type of program. Further research will be done on obtaining more formalized criteria and examples of successful proposals to target specific requirements in order to submit a proposal to deal with inappropriate sexual behaviors.

There was also discussion on obtaining money for training, specifically *Finding Words*. It is to be offered in October.

## 6. Vigo County Prosecutor's Meeting

Mike stated that the Prosecutor seems committed to child protection issues and wants more timely intervention at the investigation level. Vigo County is hiring someone to specialize in child welfare issues. Mike discussed difficulties that Vigo County is having with one hospital choosing not to make notification of possible abuse/neglect injuries. The Prosecutor's Office plans to have a more proactive stance in child abuse/neglect cases.

## 7. Additional Business

Mr. Uberto announced the graduation of 24 new FCMs, three of which will be in Region 8. He was impressed by the representation of current staff at the graduation.

Robyn Lugar and Peggy Weber discussed the intern program. It is to be continued next year. Mr. Uberto and a Director will attend the interviews for next year's class of interns.

Concerns were expressed with the office schedules for interns. Directors feel that their experience will be more complete if they are in the office on consecutive days. Peggy and Robyn will make an assessment of how this can work for the fall schedule.

Peggy distributed brochures on the conference being held on March 14, 2007 on *Autism, Asperser's and Serving Customers with Disabilities*. Those wishing to attend should return the registration form and check the box entitled "Dept. of Social Work Field Instructor" in order to attend free of charge. Mr. Uberto encouraged attendance to the conference.

Peggy announced that USI is starting this fall a MSW program for those who do not have a BSW, but have a degree in a related field. They will meet on ISU campus three times during the semester. The students work environments will act as internships with conditions. Contact Christy Baker at USI for further information.

Robyn stated that Glenn is on their Advisory Committee for the School of Social Work. The position has a time commitment of one hour twice a year and one day to interview future intern candidates. Mr. Uberto will attend on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 after the conference.

Norma Stewart from White's Residential Facility discussed the programs that they offer.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: The next meeting will be held on March 30, 2007 at 9:00 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10A.M.